GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:560
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
ENVIRONMENTALLY VULNERABLE AREAS
Sharma Shri Jugal Kishore

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified certain areas, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir for being declared as eco-fragile vulnerable;

(b) if so, the details thereof, area and State-wise;

(c) the details of schemes/programmes under implementation for their conservation, sustainability and development along with the funds made available and utilised for the purpose during the last three years, scheme and State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken for ecological sustainability of these areas/region and the achievements made in this regard, so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 560 REGARDING "ENVIRONMENTALLY VULNERABLE AREAS" BY SHRI JUGAL KISHORE FOR REPLY ON 05.05.2015.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir had identified 12 Eco-sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries in the State. The details of the Eco-sensitive Zones identified by the State Government are given at Annexure I. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notifies Eco-sensitive Zones' under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, wherein, inter alia identified projects/activities are regulated /prohibited as the case may be in a site-specific manner. The National Environment Policy, 2006, defines Eco-sensitive Zones as areas/zones with identified environmental resources having incomparable values which require special attention for their conservation.

The Ministry has declared Eco-sensitive Zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and certain identified areas which require special attention and protection. The state-wise list of Eco-sensitive Zones already notified in the Gazette of India under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is given at Annexure II.

(c) & (d): The conservation and sustainable development of Eco-sensitive Zones is achieved through preparation of a Zonal Master Plan for these zones on a scientific basis with adequate participation of the local communities and line departments of the State Government. The regulation of activities in the Eco-sensitive Zone maintains the carrying capacity of the area while ensuring sustainable development of the region taking into consideration the needs and aspirations of the local people.